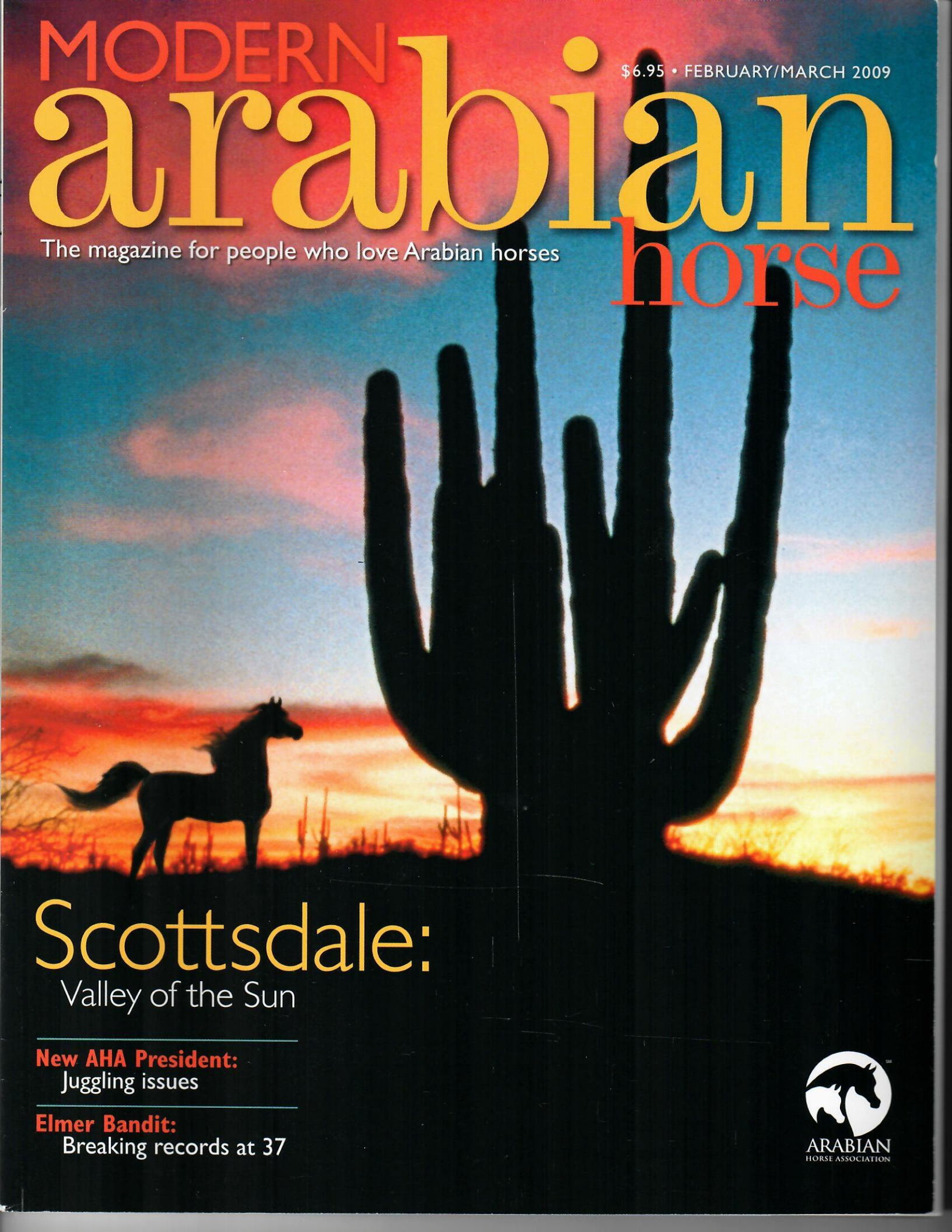


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The magazine for people who love Arabian horses



# Scottsdale:

Valley of the Sun

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**New AHA President:**  
Juggling issues

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**Elmer Bandit:**  
Breaking records at 37





THIS PHOTO: Candy Barbo rode CR Windsor to a reserve champion finish with a score of 184.25 at the 2008 National Competitive Trail Ride, held at Big River National Forest. This photo is a good example of the deep-sand footing.

INSET PHOTOS, LEFT TO RIGHT: True love, a girl (Mckinzie Flanagan) and her horse (Grannys Scarlet). Flanagan was not only champion in the Half-Arabian division, but she also earned the High-Point Junior Rider awards.

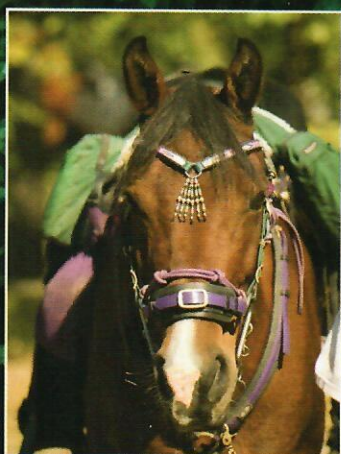
WOA Ravens Premier and Debby Searle finished Top 10 in the Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian division.

Vanessa Vanderbeek focuses next to CR Raazberry Dreme. They finished Top 10 in the Arabian division.

## Arabians and Half-Arabians test their skill on winding, deep sand trails at the 2008 AHA National Competitive Trail Ride

BY LINDA L. RUDOLPH  
PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
TIMELESS EQUINE PHOTOGRAPHY

# Dig Deep



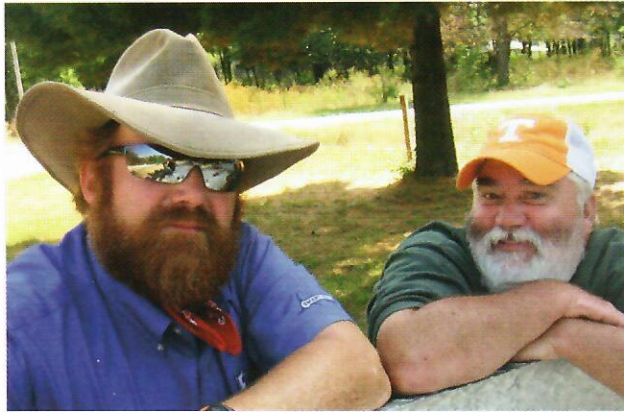
**T**he sand at Big River National Forest along the Mississippi River provided a great testing ground for the 2008 AHA National Competitive Trail Ride. Seventy miles of deep sand and winding trails for two days tested horses and riders from seven states and Canada during the first weekend of October. While the quantity of horses was not overwhelming, the quality was amazing. The best of the best closed their eyes to the gas prices and economic woes to make the trip and compete.

According to veterinarian judge Dr. Wes Elford from Wisconsin, "I was impressed in the overall, high level of competition, not only of the horses but of the

RIGHT: Ride Manager Tony Troyer and AHA National Distance Commissioner Eric Reuter.

BELOW: Scorekeepers, trail markers and volunteers, from left to right, Holly Kemmis, Linda Rudolphi and JoAnne Gernant.

OPPOSITE: Riders on the trail, from left to right, Jitske Miedema Staker on Brash N Sassy, Kellie Eckmann on CR Mighty Charity and Mary Wills on Alamo CA.



riders and the support people...there could have been some serious problems in a lesser field, but these horses did very well. I was indeed proud that we did not have to treat any horses." On hand for emergencies, treatment veterinarian Dr. Rachel Boyce said, "I am always concerned in deep sand that we will have metabolic problems as well as soft tissue injuries, especially suspensory problems." Veterinarian judge Dr. Rae Birr felt "the caliber of horses was impressive. The real test was going out and doing the trail a second day, when those tendons, ligaments and muscles were still recovering."

As with any high-level competition, success does not happen overnight. Ride Manager Tony Troyer out-did himself by networking an incredible team of volunteers. "My compliments to Ride Manager Tony Troyer and

the Arabian Horse Distance Riders Association (AHDRA)," remarked an impressed Region 11 director Dave Waggoner. Several AHDRA members volunteered their time and provided food for the competitors. Coming into her first National CTR, the new AHA National Distance Ride Coordinator Leigh Ann Corey said, "I was nervous going into this ride having never coordinated a national-level ride in the past, but thanks to Tony Troyer, Linda Rudolphi, Ruth Stewart (AHA Ride Steward) and all the valuable volunteers, we put on a successful competition! I heard nothing but positive comments from the exhibitors."

Trailmaster JoAnne Gernant, a veteran distance rider with more than 20,000 miles of competition, spent most of the summer laying out a trail worthy of national competition. Gernant praised the Big Forest staff,

"They worked diligently cleaning trail and thankfully removing ground bees and a hornet's nest located at the level of a rider's head. Nothing was missed; they worked very hard to make this ride a success."

## PRE-RIDE

The pre-ride veterinary check of the horses started at 3 p.m. on Thursday. Dr. Maureen Fehrs supervised the vet check area throughout the ride. Heart rates were recorded using digital hand-held monitors. Dehydration, muscle soreness, abrasions, capillary refill and quality of gait were recorded to establish a baseline for all entries. Throughout the ride, these factors were routinely re-examined going through this same process.

Thursday evening, each horse-and-rider team was introduced. As spectators watched this quiet group of horses parade pass, it became apparent there were some with very impressive resumes. Horses with more than thousands of miles of successful competition and riders with international experience were now gathered in the middle of cornfields, wondering about what was ahead in the sand.

Lights were out early in camp as riders tried to sleep with the final words of the ride manager echoing in their heads: "Follow the trail in this order ... red loop, black loop and then repeat the red loop..."

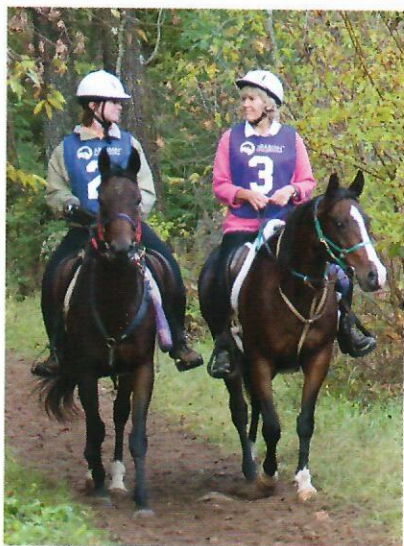
## DAY ONE

The first day was perfect for 40 miles on the trail. The adrenalin was pumping while horses and riders waited for the trail to open. The ride began by staggering pairs of teams to avoid trail congestion. Mo Miller and Dave Waggoner accurately managed the timing to ensure time penalties were



correct, as even a few penalty points can make the difference between a completion or a disqualification.

Shortly after the start, bad news hit camp. The first two riders took the wrong loop! Both riders were halfway around the 12-mile black loop before they realized they were



Lynn Hartmann and Meg Sleeper on the trail, is it the correct loop?

wrong. According to AHA rules, the trail must be completed in the correct order. Therefore, the two teams had to return to camp and restart the ride in the correct sequence. Exemplifying true perseverance, they finished the day within the time parameters and with remarkable scores. They were still in the competition.

## DAY TWO

The second day started very early. For some reason, a couple of horses spooked and broke loose from their camp and could not be found. According to Troyer, "Our family in distance riding came through! It was only minutes that we had flashlights and rigs out on the search combing the countryside."

Which horses were they? The same two horses that did the extra 12 miles on the trail were now loose. How could one group have so much bad luck?

"Tony went above and beyond the call of duty to spend the majority

## FUN FACTS

Part of the roller-coaster thrill of distance riding includes the fact you may enter the ride, but may not necessarily start the ride. Twenty-eight horses entered this year's AHA National Competitive Trail Ride, however, only 25 actually started. Twenty of those who finished equated to an 80-percent completion rate from start to finish. Unfortunately, crossing the finish line in distance riding does not guarantee a placing either, as Half-Arabian Khiss N Bandyt (Pusher All Color x Khande Khiss), owned by Waltrine Miller, had the heart-break of being pulled at the last vet check for lameness. On the second day, three horses did not start the day and two more horses were pulled at the halfway check.

The spot check on the first day caught 15 horses with high pulse rates resulting in penalty points of 1 point or more. On day two, the spot checks again separated the fit from the fittest. However, fewer horses lost 1 or more points with only 8 at the first surprise and 4 at the second surprise check. A great example of how these horses often get better as they work.

On the first day, five horses finished without losing any pulse penalty points and scores ranging from 91 to 94 out of 100 possible points for the day. Tired from 40 miles on the first day, the second day still had four horses free from pulse penalty points. Three of those horses, Saleros Legacy, Psyche On Fire (Padrons Psyche x Afire in my Eyes by Afire Bey V) and Wine-Glass Dominus (Shagya stallion \*Budapest x WineBint Darnefti by Atmandu) finished the entire 70 miles without a pulse rate of more than 44 bpm.

## THANKS TO ALL THE RIDE SPONSORS!

Of course, any major event cannot take place without the generosity of the sponsors. ABC Supply, [www.abcplus.biz](http://www.abcplus.biz), not only provided ABC products for all the competitors, they also provided sleeping accommodation for the veterinarians, a 4-wheeler and an emergency vehicle. Equi-Pedic Inc., [www.equipedic.com](http://www.equipedic.com), donated an endurance saddle pad to the High-Point Junior Rider. Fort Dodge Animal Health donated Quest anthelmintic to all the competitors. The Independent Shagya Breeders, [www.shagya-breeders.com](http://www.shagya-breeders.com), provided information sheets on the surrounding businesses and accommodations. In addition, the ISB provided numerous volunteers and sponsored a Shagya/Half-Arabian competing at the AHA National CTR.

Locally, the First Christian Church of Keithsburg rolled out the red carpet of rural hospitality. They catered exceptional meals and homemade desserts. Sandy Oaks Campground provided the accommodations. In addition to being a horse campground, Sandy Oaks has a Moto-X track and is a popular location for deer hunters. As an excellent example of people sharing trails, the 4-wheeler racers did not practice or race while the horses were in the campground.



of the night and morning searching for our errant horses,” says Meg Sleeper, VMD, the owner and rider of one of the escapees. “There were many others I must thank who were also extraordinarily generous with their time helping us search.”

Back in camp, volunteers pulled together to get the ride started on time. Thirty miles awaited the horses, and two surprise spot checks were scheduled for the day. Scores throughout the day were excellent, even at the surprise spot checks. The nerves of the first day had settled down and riders had learned how to pace the sand.

Tired and sore, riders presented their horses for the final check. Dr. Rae Birr commented, “It was nice to have the caliber of riders who know how to show their horses to their best advantage. This is the time to show off, and it was a pleasure to see the effort of the competitors at a national championship.” During an AHA competitive ride, only the rider can

care for their horse, which means no one can hold, feed or saddle your horse. These riders have done everything by themselves since Thursday afternoon with their only team member—their horse. Twenty horses successfully completed the ride.

## AWARDS

The awards ceremony started with special acknowledgements. Bottles of red wine were presented to the two lost riders as a subtle hint to take the red loop first. Flowers were presented to the trailmaster and scorekeepers. As a fun prize, Dr. Wes Elford randomly selected riders for a team award and donated buckets filled with horse goodies to the high-scoring team. Then onto the AHA awards, champion and reserve champion scores in both divisions only had a spread of 186 to 182.5 points.

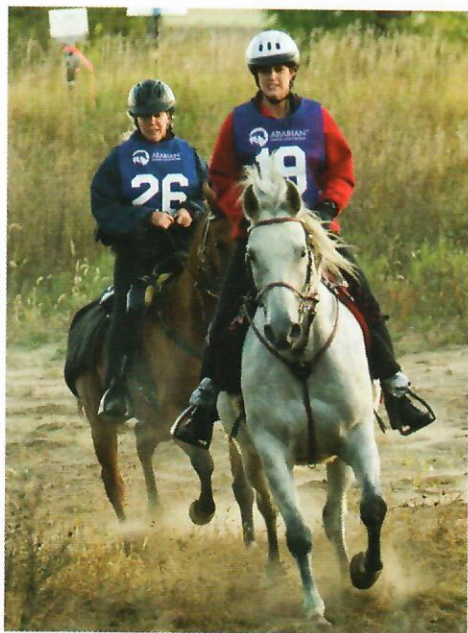
Jennifer Allen from Princeton, Ill., and Saleros Legacy (Salero x Illiamo Martina), “Legs,” were champions in

BELOW: Becky McCarty rode Wineglass Dominus to a reserve champion title in the HA/AA division. Marcel Smith and Coltreign are in the background.

MIDDLE: Tim Germann finished Top 10 on Justkiddingaround+ in the Half-Arabian division.

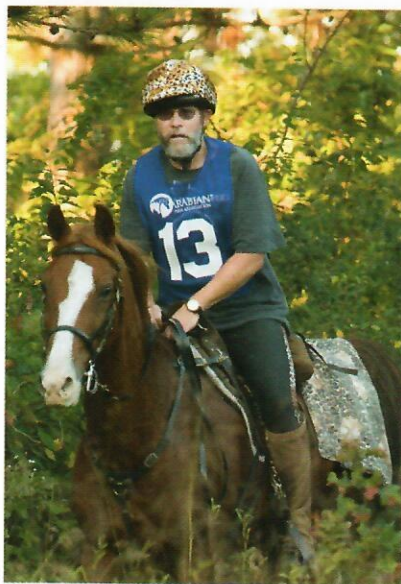
RIGHT: McKinzie Flanagan, right, rode Grannys Scarlet to a champion finish in the Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian category with a score of 185.75. Top-10 finisher Debby Searly on WOA Ravens Premier rides just ahead.

OPPOSITE: Saleros Legacy, with Jennifer Allen in the saddle, scored a 186 to secure champion status in the Arabian division. Lori Windows and Nellys Thunder trail behind.



the Arabian division. According to Allen, “Legs is a [combination] of many things. Legs: the amazing little horse that makes the vets laugh almost every time they see him trot out. My worries about the sand completely vanished as he insisted on plunging through it, up and down the hills... his best loop being the last 14 miles of the ride. Almost a year and a month after obtaining Legs—literally, for free—he is winning his first championship at the young age of 6.”

Only 1.75 points behind, reserve champion Arabian went to Candace Barbo of Duluth, Minn., and CR Windsor (Regal Basque x Denaka by



Cognac). “I knew I was going to buy Windsor the minute I saw him. He was only 4 years old and tall and very gangly. He is now 10 years old and has over 3,000 endurance miles and close to 2,000 competitive miles...and was on the alternate list for the 2006 World Endurance Championships in Germany.”

Junior rider Mckinzie Flanagan from Iowa captured the Half-Arabian



championship and the High-Point Junior Rider award on Grannys Scarlet (Baszadin x Camille). According to her coach Eryn Rapp, Flanagan and “Scarlet” have a unique story. Rapp was planning to compete in the nationals and wanted her additional horse, Scarlet, to compete as well. Knowing Flanagan was a capable young rider, a month before the ride, Flanagan and Scarlet started training as a team. The night before leaving for the ride, Eryn’s horse was lame and would not be able to compete. “Mckinzie was nervous to begin with and this just tripled it!”

Half-Arabian reserve champion went to Becky McCarty of Medina, Ohio, and WineGlass Dominus (\*Budapest x Wine Bintdarnesti). “ ‘Dommy’ and I have had a great summer. He was the AHA Region 14 Half-Arabian, 50-mile endurance champion. In competitive riding, he won his division and was the overall Grand Champion at four of the OAATS (Ohio Arabian & All-Breed Trail Riding Society) open rides this year.” McCarty added, “I want to thank the Independent

**“The [National CTR] reminded me of why I compete in this sport. There is simply not a better way to spend your time, than experiencing beautiful countryside from the back of an Arabian horse you love, with inspiring people around you. Who really cares about the ribbons?”**

*—Meg Sleeper*



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Jennifer Allen and Arabian Champion Saleros Legacy; McKinzie Flanagan and Half-Arabian Champion Grannys Scarlet; Becky McCarty and Half-Arabian Reserve Champion Wineglass Dominus; Candy Barbo and Arabian Reserve Champion CR Windsor.

Shagya Breeders for sponsoring us, I am so proud to see the Shagya horses getting recognition.”

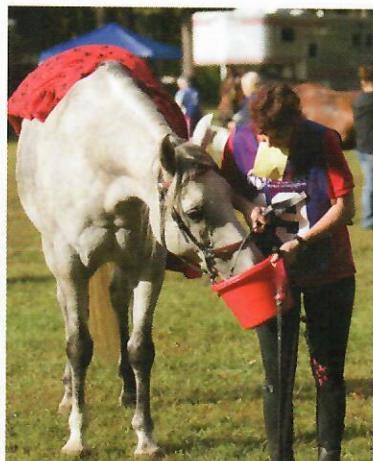
In the purebred Top Five, a tie had to be broken for fourth and fifth place between CR Raazberry Dreme (Tiraaz x Jabask Fire Love), owned by Lynn Reichert, and Brash N Sassy (Tsenturian x Dahbi), owned by Irene Duffy, with a grand total of 183 out of 200 possible points. The determining factor to break a tie was the best metabolic score at the end of the ride giving CR Raazberry Dreme the advantage.

## CONCLUSION

Art King, DVM of Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada, and a member of the AHA Distance Commission summed up the event well, “AHA is committed to promoting the use of Arabian and Half-Arabian horses in CTR and Endurance Ride competitions. The breeders and riders of these horses are also committed, as indicated by the years of training, care and conditioning required to maintain a sound horse while competing at the highest levels of the sport. I have been involved ... for over 30 years. I still am awed by the commitment of the riders and the condition of the horses that complete any competition.”

What about the lost horses? They are fine and back home in New Jersey. Meg Sleeper is off to Malaysia riding on the U.S. FEI endurance team—hopefully leaving all her bad luck in Illinois. Before leaving she wrote, “The [National CTR] reminded me of why I compete in this sport. There is simply not a better way to spend your time, than experiencing beautiful countryside from the back of an Arabian horse you love, with inspiring people around you. Who really cares about the ribbons? Thanks to Tony and everyone for reminding me what matters.”





ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT: Marcel Smith and Coltreign enjoy their time on the trail. Becky McCarty and Wineglass Dominus at a vet check. Minnesota horses get a quick drink on the trail. Left to right: Anita Sinnott on Psyche On Fire; Lynn Reichert on WH Procrastinator; Vanessa Vanderbeek on CR Raazberry Dreme; and Candy Barbo on CR Windsor.

Are you ready to try distance riding? Or volunteer at a ride? Holly Kemmis from Wisconsin summed up her experience, "I am a newcomer to this sport and came to support my friends who worked on the ride management team and participated in the Half-Arabian division. I marked trail, assisted with score keeping and took photos. In the

process, I learned more than I imagined and met a host of wonderful people. It was an awesome experience and I look forward to participating again!" 🐾

*Linda Rudolphi grew up next to the well-known Arabian farms—Friendship, Shalimar, Babson, Harvey and ACE in Illinois. She groomed for the AHSA*

*Horsewoman of the Year Arabian trainer Carolyn Gardner. During college she spent her summers training and showing Arabians for Silver Springs Ranch in Wyoming. Rudolphi is a graduate of Stephens College Equestrian Program and still actively involved in raising Arabian sport horses. She is the registrar for the Hungarian Horse Association of America.*

## 2008 ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION NATIONAL COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

### ARABIAN DIVISION

10 horses started — 9 completed

PLACE	HORSE NAME	RIDER NAME	OWNER NAME	SCORE
Champion	SALEROS LEGACY	Jennifer Allen	Jennifer Allen & Lori Windows	186
Reserve Champion	CR WINDSOR	Candy Barbo	Candy Barbo	184.25
Top Ten	PSYCHE ON FIRE	Anita Sinnott	Candy Barbo	184
Top Ten	CR RAAZBERRY DREME	Vanessa VanderBeek	Lynn Reichert	183
Top Ten	BRASH N SASSY	Jitske Miedema Staker	Irene Duffy	181
Completion	HV STANDING OVATION	Kristine Erb	Kristine Erb	178
Completion	ALAMO CA	Mary Wills	Mary Wills	178
Completion	COLTREIGN	Marcel Smith	Marcel Smith	170.5
Completion	KRACKER	Jeffrey Skaggs	Jeffrey Skaggs	159.75

### HALF-ARABIAN/ANGLO-ARABIAN DIVISION

15 horses started — 11 completed

PLACE	HORSE NAME	RIDER NAME	OWNER NAME	SCORE
Champion	GRANNYS SCARLET	McKinzie Flanagan	Eryn Rapp	185.75
Reserve Champion	WINEGLASS DOMINUS	Rebecca McCarty	Rebecca McCarty	182.5
Top Ten	NITETIME JAMBOREE+//	Teresa Searcy	Teresa & Glen Searcy	177.75
Top Ten	NELLYS THUNDER	Lori Windows	Lori Windows	176
Top Ten	WH PROCRASTINATOR	Lynn Reichert	Lynn Reichert	175.75
Top Ten	JUSTKIDDINGAROUND+	Tim Germann	Lisa Germann	170
Top Ten	WOA RAVENS PREMIER	Debby Searle	Debby Searle	169.25
Top Ten	SULTANN SUNDANCE	Linda Miller	Debby Searle	162.75
Completion	FORT WILLIAM+//	Prue Critchley	Prue Critchley	159
Completion	CR MIGHTY CHARITY	Kellie Eckmann	Irene Duffy	151.5
Completion	KHISS N BANDYT+	Waltrine Miller	Waltrine Miller	N/A